

From: John A Brown
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 10:08pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

I have reviewed the terms and found them severely lacking. There are 3 things missing that need to be included before consumers will gain significant protection from Microsoft:

1) The Java Virtual Machine from Sun - needs to be included in Internet Explorer: 2 Reasons why this is critical;

a) Microsoft has done much to damage Java through the use of non-Java compliant software such as their current implementation of the JVM and their broken development tools for Java - especially Visual J++. By including the standard Java VM, they will begin to make up for the needless damage they have done to this technology.

b) The Government is required to make all public facing and some internal internet content Section 508 Compliant - i.e. accessible to individuals who may be blind, or otherwise needs to use assistive technologies. The Sun Java VM implements an accessibility API (part of JFC/SWING) while the Microsoft JVM does not. In other words, the Microsoft JVM is counter-productive for efforts to make the web a more accessible place for individuals with disabilities, while the Sun JVM has taken a leadership role in championing accessibility

2) Microsoft should be required to keep passport free - now and forever, with the additional restriction that its code be shared with all identified competitors. As a universal authentication mechanism, charging for this service will likely follow after this case is closed - unless explicitly required. Additionally, by taking what was essential MIT's Kerberos and propriatizing it - Microsoft will be taking (yet again) what was a good example of open standards excellence and converting it to a less well understood target for hackers accross the internet.

3) Microsoft should be required to modify their .NET architecture to ensure interoperability with XML web services than those developed for the Windows platform; i.e. they should be barred from restricting .NET components from working only with passport and other windows software. This may be the most critical restriction moving forward, if Microsoft is to embrace open standards - this piece needs to be present. Otherwise the entire content on the internet may some day become wrapped in proprietary microsoft protocols, authentication mechanisms, and other software agents that would make it hostile to other competing technologies.

If there are any questions regarding my comments, I am reachable at 206-267-0071 EST.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment.

v/r

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